

REMARKS

The Pending Claims

Claims 9-13, 15-17, and 21 are subject to continued examination.

Summary of the Office Action

The Final Office Action dated November 14, 2007, included the following rejections and objections:

1. Claims 9-13, 16, 17, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cain et al. (US Application 3,634,126) in view of Kimbrell et al. (US Application 2004/0137814).

In response to these rejections and in view of the above amendments, Applicants provide the following Remarks:

Discussion of the Rejections

Claims 9-13, 16, 17, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cain et al. in view of Kimbrell et al.

Because Kimbrell et al. is only available as a reference under 102(e), Applicants believe that they have satisfied the first criteria needed to invoke the provisions under 35 U.S.C 103(c). Regarding the second criteria necessary to invoke the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 103 (c), Applicants also note that the present application and the Kimbrell et al. reference were, at the time of the invention of the present subject matter, each subject to an obligation of assignment to Milliken and Company. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the obviousness rejection over the Kimbrell et al. publication be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections and to pass the subject application to allowance. In the event that the Examiner believes that the claims would be allowable with minor changes, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss an Examiner's Amendment.


Fee Authorization: In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to withdraw those fees from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Extension of Time: In the event that additional time is required to have the papers submitted herewith for the above referenced application to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for any additional time required to make these papers timely and authorization is hereby granted to withdraw any additional fees necessary for this additional time from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

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Respectfully submitted,

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